

Application No. 10/518151
Reply to Action dated 11/20/09

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request a favorable reconsideration of the claims. Claims 1-9 have been canceled without any disclaimer or prejudice. Only allowed claims 10-12 remain pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winkler (EP 918095 A1). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 have been canceled making this rejection moot.

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spanjers et al. (US 2002/0006352 A1). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. The rejected claims have been canceled making this rejection moot.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishi et al. (US 4847048). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. The rejected claims have been canceled making this rejection moot.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of Winkler, Spanjers et al. or Nishi in further view of Komazaki (US 2002/0141896). Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. The rejected claim has been canceled making this rejection moot.

Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any of Winkler or Nishi in further view of Spanjers et al. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. The rejected claims have been canceled making this rejection moot.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. 29,165, at (612) 455-3802.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 13, 2010